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Paper March 3 1829

An  
Inaugural Essay,  
on

Articular Affections,

Submitted to

The Medical Faculty,

of the

University of Pennsylvania

by

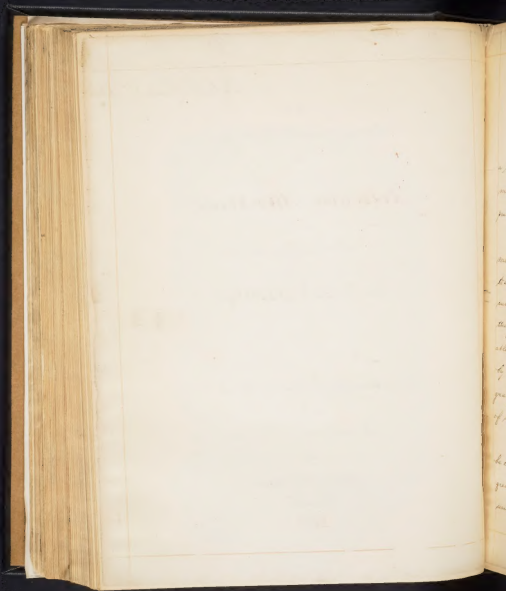
Richard Morris

of

Pennsylvania.

March

1829.

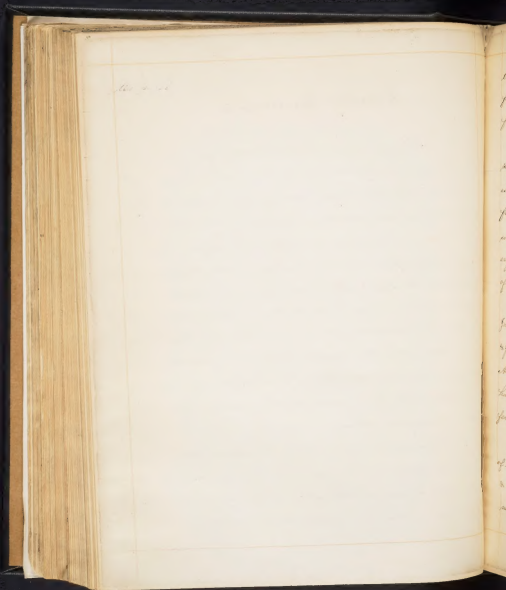


## Articular Affections.

It is my purpose in the following pages to enter into a short examination of these highly important parts of the human frame, the Articulations, & subsequently to attend to the principal morbid affections to which they are subjected.

The joints are certainly to be classed among the most interesting parts of the mechanism of man, & cannot fail to enlist the attention of any one who bestows the slightest circumspection on viewing their structure. Their aptitude to the purposes for which they apparently are intended, their remarkable strength, without their destined motions being interfered with by excessive weight, & their graceful contour calculated to afford gratification to the eye, cannot fail to excite the admiration of the most casual observer.

The principal parts composing the articulations, if put be compared, cannot be arranged among structures possessing the greatest vital powers; yet still, when assailed by disease they undergo extreme derangement, in many instances causing

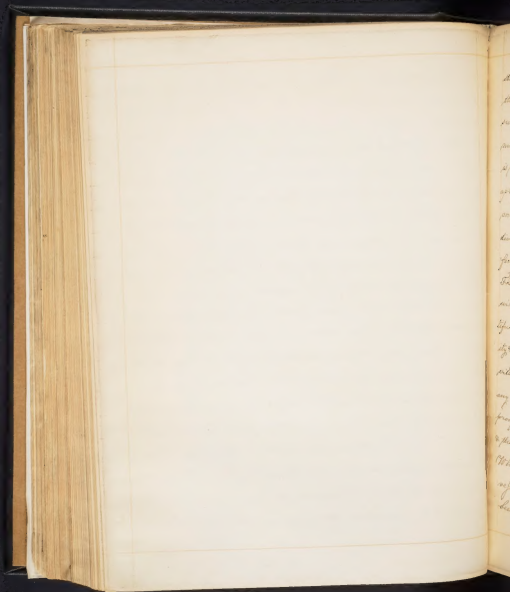


the most intense pain, calling into active operation all the fine feelings of the practitioner alive to the necessities of suffering humanity.

From the comparative paucity of communications on this subject, it would appear that diseases of the joints have not elicited as much attention as their important nature seems to demand, for which their infrequency of occurrence, when joined together with many other diseases, may in some measure account, many engaged in medical pursuits therefore not having an opportunity of witnessing the various forms of articular affections.

The several parts entering into the composition of the joints are Bone, Cartilage, Ligament, Synovial membranes & frequently masses of Adipose substance & Fibrocartilage, as the Articular cartilages. Each particular one of those mentioned has its own peculiar interest, as being the seat of disease, & differing altogether or in very many respects from the remainder.

The *Osses* begins to be mentioned in speaking of the Articulations is the extremities of long bones, as the knee & elbow, or a long bone whose articulating surface is accommodated with a suitable depression in a flat bone. These are



the description of bones to be met with in the larger joints, those claiming my attention at present. The long bones are swollen out, as it were, at their ends in order to render their union more secure. By this angulation the quantity of bony matter is not increased, but assumes a cellular arrangement, not inaptly compared to the cells observed in a sponge, having many communications from one to another. This may be proven by dividing a bone & exposing it to heat, when the marrow flowing from cell to cell, will finally escape at the inferior end extremity. The extremities of these long bones have their surfaces covered with a thin plate of Cartilage, a substance presenting a smooth, polished, ivory appearance, remarkable for its durability & elasticity. This substance is supposed to possess but little vitality; indeed some have denied that it possesses that in any degree; yet sufficient evidence is supposed to be afforded in proof that cartilage is in some degree vitalized by disease & the change from the cartilaginous to the osseous state. Whilst in a natural state not the least appearance of the vessels is observable, nor have the most expert Anatomists been able to trace any filaments of nerves entering,

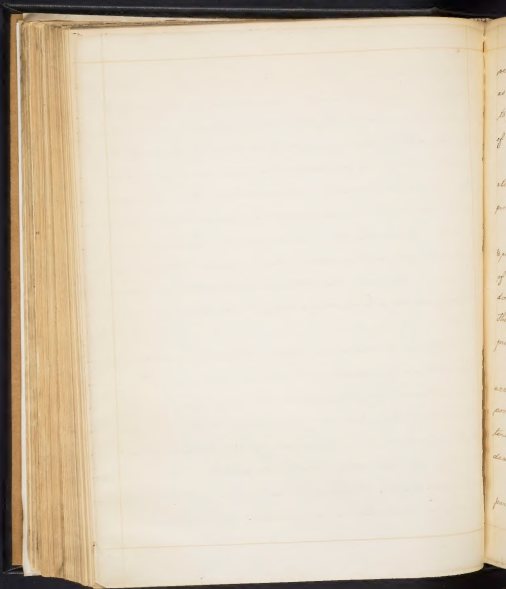




their composition.

Ligament placed under the dermoid tissue evidently presents a fibrous arrangement; its fibres running, in no one particular direction. This tissue is extremely deficient in elasticity. Very great strength is possessed by ligaments; & in many instances extreme force is requisite to produce its rupture. The permanent articulations are secured by capsular as well as fibrous Ligaments. The former are circular & enclosed at both the upper & lower extremities, & attached to the bones forming the joint. The latter are calculated, to give great security to the parts, many being found round a single joint.

The Synovial capsules are bags, without any opening whatever, lining the interior of the capsular Ligament; & like a wise extended over the surface of the cartilage covering the articulating surfaces of the bones. When the capsular Ligament is imperfect, the synovial membrane uniting with the external cellular substance forms a good substitute, being sufficiently firm without interfering in the articular movements. Inflammation of the



note the structure of the thyroïd capsules, & valuable therein  
as containing a mass of cells, & being a kind of  
sacculus. The capsule is thick, & the lining  
of internal cells, & vessels.

The capsule is composed of a single layer of  
cells, & the cells are of a cubical form, & are  
packed closely together, & are of a uniform  
size.

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[illegible][illegible]









[illegible]



Here the air is mild & pleasant, and the  
 light breeze is just what is needed to  
 keep the air cool. The air is just what  
 is needed to keep the air cool. The air is  
 just what is needed to keep the air cool.



to-day, & will, I think, suffer great pain, & will allow myself  
 to be somewhat relaxed, & will not think of going to the  
 school tomorrow, & will be absent from school for  
 the week. I have a great deal of work to do, & I  
 shall be obliged to you to be so good as to write to me  
 as soon as you can, & to let me know how you are getting on.  
 I am, my dear friend, ever your affectionate friend,  
 & will be glad to hear from you again soon.









gives it a 10 degree of "darkness" at the 100 ft. mark. The distance - 100 feet - increases in proportion to the depth of the water, and the darkness of the water is also increased in proportion to the depth of the water.

[illegible]

The language which the true poet  
 employs is almost as significant, the mind to the eye  
 as the sense of the words in the speech to the ear. The poet

















understanding of the nature of the disease. The disease is caused  
by a virus which is very contagious and is spread by  
contact with the infected animal. The disease is of  
a very serious nature and is often fatal. It is caused by  
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It will not be long before the people of the world  
will be able to see the true nature of the  
the human mind in its own nature.

Of course, the human mind is not a simple  
thing, and it is not a simple thing to  
understand it. It is a complex thing, and  
it is a complex thing to understand it.

In the human mind, there is a great deal of  
that is not known to the world. It is a  
thing that is not known to the world, and  
it is a thing that is not known to the world.  
It is a thing that is not known to the world,  
and it is a thing that is not known to the world.  
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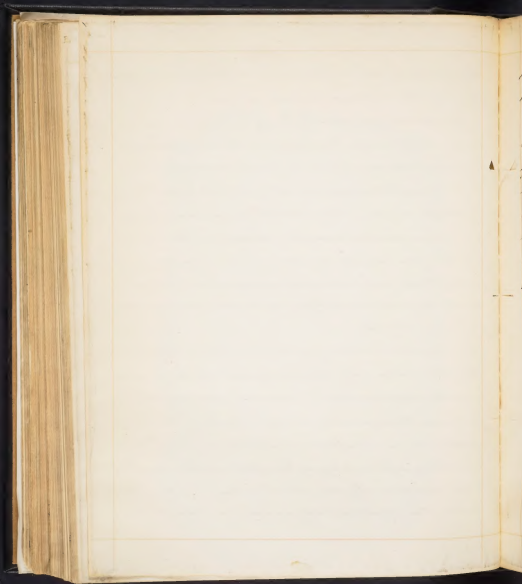
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be performed, on account of the excessive disturbance of the system occasioned by this intersting complaint.

An operation performed by fixing the body in a proper position, cutting down upon & extracting it, is the only permanent method of relieving a person troubled with Movable Cartilages. Linings & bandages around the joint afford temporary relief. Suppuration occurring in the joint after the extraction of foreign Cartilaginous bodies, accompanied by tetanic symptoms, opium, elevation of the extremity operated upon, together with an ordinary Bread & milk poultice are recommended by Dr. Gekron, in whose hands this treatment relieved the most violent symptoms of the kind alluded to.

It was my intention to take a general view of the articular affections, & this has been done. Their consequence is certainly very great, & the duration of many of these diseases is so considerable, as to render them peculiarly worthy our attention. Persons afflicted with morbid affections may endure for a long time great bodily suffering, & keep up their spirits on hope of ultimate relief being afforded; but when they find from time to time their expectations totally disappointed, their spirits can





scarcely fail to fly, & finally to rot. Thus it is found to be in diseases of the Articulations, as well as in other chronic affections.

To sum up all that has been attempted, in these pages, first an outline of the parts concerned in the disease to be afterwards spoken of, & secondly, then the principal articular affections, & in conclusion some of the principal means employed in the cure of these affections. I sufficient has been said in this rude description to give the most uninformed an idea of the importance of the subject. But when these matters are touched upon by the pen of one who can from his own experience describe symptoms & successful mode of practice, 'tis then that the importance of the subject is fully discerned, & appears in its most attractive dress. Still the youthful cultivator of medical & surgical as well as other sciences, tho' now not skilled in the Lessons of wisdom & experience, may indulge in hope, & incited to exertion by the luminaries around him, may look forward to the time when he may acquire some degree of lustre, & ascend nearer & nearer the standard of perfection.

